The percentage called for cannot be supplied as the present total population of the backward classes is not available.

ii. Exact figures are not available.

iii. Eight.

iv. Vide the Chief Engineer's remarks on page 823 of the budget session Proceedings of 1100.

Stipends to Depressed Class students.

508. Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) (1) as to whether the Director of Public Instruction has recommended the grant of a stipend to students of the depressed classes studying in the secondary classes;

(2) what were the reasons for the Government in over-ruling this recommendation;

(3) what is the total number of such students studying in the Secondary classes in the whole State;

(4) what is the rate at which stipend was proposed by the Director;

(5) does not Government consider their status requires such consideration;

(b) was there a petition received by the Government or the Director of Public Instruction from any member of the depressed classes at the end of last year for a stipend or other pecuniary help to enable him to educate his child studying in the Lower Secondary Girls' school, Vadakkancheri; has that petition been replied to by either . at what stage is it lying now?

Mr. C. Matthai.—(a) (1) Yes, for the Upper Secondary classes only from Edavam 1102.

(2) Government have accepted the recommendation.

(3) Twenty-five at the end of 1101.

(4) Rs. 3.

(5) Vide answer to part 2 above.

(b) No such petition was received.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—Am I to understand that the Director's recommendation was only with regard to the Upper Secondary students or whether the Director had also recommended for stipends to the Lower Secondary students also?

Mr. C. Matthai.—The answer is quite clear. The Director's recommendation was only for the Upper Secondary classes.

Mr. Chakko Caeruvattur. Does this 25 represent the number of students in the Upper Secondary classes only?

Mr. C. Matthai.—That represents the Secondary—the lower as well as the upper, both together at the end of 1101.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—May I know the number of students in the Upper Secondary classes alone?

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Mr. C. Matthai.—There are none now. We expect to have some next year. The Third Form is the highest in the Lower Secondary division.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—Was the stipend of Rs. 3 availed of by anybody?

Mr. C. Matthai.—It will be availed of from next year.

Grant to the Y. W. C. A. Hostel.

509. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether any rule or principle was followed in giving grant to hostels before the order fixing the grant at Rs. 1-4-0 was passed and, if so, what was it; and to lay on the table the petition or request recently submitted by the authorities of the Y. W. C. A. Hostel, Kunnamkulam, to the Diwan through the Director of Public Instruction about the inadequate grant to their hostel before the rate at Rs. 1—4—0 per boarder and the order passed by the Government in this matter?

Mr. C. Matthai.—Yes. The payment of grant was based more or less on the average cost per boarder in the Government hostels, special consideration being shown to those that were intended for backward or depressed communities.

The petition and the orders thereon are appended. (*Vide Appendix V.*)

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The answer refers to Government hostels. Is it not so?

President.—The answer has reference to Government hostels.

Mr. C. Matthai.—The aid given to aided schools is based on our expenditure on Government hostels.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Do you take into consideration all the Government hostels of the State, when you give grant to a particular hostel?

Mr. C. Matthai.—We have more or less an idea of what it costs us in Government hostels per boarder, and grants are based on that.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Suppose there is no Government hostel.

Mr. C. Matthai.—It does not matter at all. We can more or less know what it would cost us in Kunnamkulam, Irinjalakkuda, etc.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is there any distinction made between Girls' hostels and Boys' hostels?

Mr. C. Matthai.—The answer on the point has been already given.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—My question arises from the answer now given.

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